

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 14-20 are pending. Claims 3, 12, and 13 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 2, 8-11, and 18-20 are amended. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-196782.

Drawings

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has accepted the drawings.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 5, 2003, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith. Further, another Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with this Amendment so that the disclosure of JP Patent Publication No. Sho 63-27586 which was previously mentioned in paragraph [0003] of the specification as originally filed is now in the format required by the USPTO.

Inasmuch as JP Patent Publication No. Sho 63-27586 was previously disclosed, and this IDS merely corrects the format of the disclosure, no filing fee is required.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of two informalities. In response the Applicants have amended paragraphs [0004] and [0029] of the specification.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claim 10 because of an informality. In response, the Applicants have amended claim 10 to address the issue pointed out by the examiner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by St. John (U.S. 4,226,320);

claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takefuta et al. (U.S. 4,450,9420);

claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 63-23034;
and

claims 2-10 and 12-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over St. John in view of Peterson (U.S. 5,562,222).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a centrifugal clutch, including *inter alia*

each of said weight component members has a first part and a second part each of which is made by baking a sintered metallic powder, the first parts made by baking the sintered metallic powders having smaller specific gravities than the second parts, whereby a center of gravity of said clutch weight is set to a predetermined position.

Support for the novel combination of elements set forth in claim 1 can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 4 and 5.

By contrast, as can be seen in St. John, Takefuta et al., JP 63-23034, and Peterson none of these documents suggests weight component members has a first part and a second part each of which is made by baking a sintered metallic powder, the first parts made by baking the sintered metallic powders having smaller specific gravities than the second parts.

While forming a single material by baking a certain sintered metallic powder may be commonly known, nowhere in the prior art is there any suggestion of weight component member having a first part and a second part each of which is made by baking a sintered metallic powder, the first parts made by baking the sintered metallic powders having smaller specific gravities than the second parts, whereby a center of gravity of said clutch weight is

set to a predetermined position.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including St. John, Takefuta et al., JP 63-23034, and Peterson, whether taken alone or combined.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 11

In addition, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a centrifugal clutch, including *inter alia*

wherein said setting of said center of gravity of said clutch weight is achieved by providing of at least some of the members with a material having a specific gravity larger than the specific gravity of a base material of said clutch weight, the material being selectively fitted into a tetra-opening provided on the side of a tip portion of said at least one of the members away from a fulcrum for said inclination of said clutch weight,

wherein a first spring opening is provided adjacent to the tetra-opening on the tip portion of said at least one of the members.

Support for the novel combination of elements set forth in claim 11 can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 6 and 7.

The examiner relies on Peterson to teach a material being fitted into holes 52-56. By contrast, as can be seen in Peterson FIG. 3, this document merely teaches multiple

cylindrical bores 52-56 that can be filled with another metal, and fails to teach a spring opening adjacent to the bores. Instead, the present invention sets the center of gravity of the clutch weight by using a single tetra opening into which the material is charged, and further a first spring opening is provided adjacent to the tetra-opening on the tip portion of said at least one of the members.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including St. John, Takefuta et al., JP 63-23034, and Peterson, whether taken alone or combined.

Therefore, independent claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 8-10, and 18-20 are amended.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Application No. 10/609,413
Amendment dated August 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 24, 2005

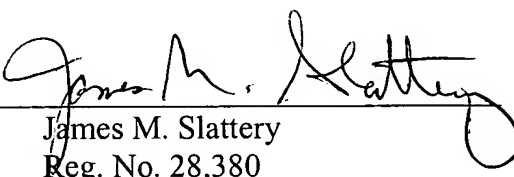
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All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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